



October 20, 2010

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Attn: Jennifer Sincock
Office of Water Docket
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Mailcode: 28221T
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

**RE: Notice of Availability of the Draft TMDL and Request for
Public Review and Comment on the Draft TMDL (Docket ID
No. EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736)**

Dear Ms. Sincock:

Our organization respectfully requests that EPA extend the comment period deadline on the proposed Chesapeake Bay TMDL to 120 days, based on the complexity of the proposal and its potentially severe impacts on family farms and poultry processing operations in my state.

The poultry industry has taken significant steps in recent years to advance nutrient management practices and minimize water quality impacts in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Under the proposed TMDL, however, thousands of family farms, as well as already heavily-regulated processing operations with stringent permit limitations for nitrogen and phosphorus, could face what may be costly and scientifically unsupportable nutrient reduction mandates.



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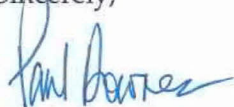
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EPA's proposed action is the most ambitious TMDL initiative ever attempted by the agency. The proposal covers multiple state and local jurisdictions, relies on extremely complex methodologies, impacts a wide range of small to large businesses and treatment operations, and will affect tens of millions of citizens.

Having only 45 days to review and recommend changes to such a far-reaching proposal is not a meaningful comment opportunity, particularly when there are only several weeks left between now and when the TMDL is scheduled to be finalized at the end of this year.

We appreciate your attention to this request and your prompt action to extend the comment deadline.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul Downes", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Paul Downes, President